

Our Seven Continents · Conversation & classroom guide

Learning with a grown-up · Ages 4–8 · Flexible participation

Can you find Africa and South America? What is between them?

Learning aim: Name or locate continents and compare their positions on a world map.

A five-minute conversation

Find a familiar land shape with Olivia, then read its name. Let your child choose a second continent to locate.

Start here: Offer two names and help find their labels.

Explore further: Discuss why Europe and Asia can have different names while still touching.

Can you find Africa and South America? What is between them?

Answer cue: Ocean water separates them. It is the Atlantic Ocean; naming it is an optional extension because the poster does not label oceans.

Can you find Europe and Asia? Is there an ocean between them?

Answer cue: Europe and Asia touch. Their different names do not mean an ocean separates them. Help your child follow the boundary between them.

Can you find the continent that stretches along the bottom of this map?

Answer cue: Antarctica. It surrounds the South Pole. Pointing is enough before remembering the name.

Keep the idea clear

This uses the seven-continent convention common in US and UK teaching. Other curricula group continents differently or use regional names such as Oceania. Continents are not countries. Europe and Asia share one connected landmass. A flat map changes shapes and apparent sizes; Antarctica is not a straight strip in the real world. The seven labels name the continents. Some nearby islands are shown in a neutral color without a continent assignment. Australia and many neighboring Pacific islands belong to the wider region of Oceania.

Try: Draw a land-and-water clue

Materials: Paper and a pencil or crayon, or use pointing and spoken descriptions.

1. Draw two large land shapes with water between them.
2. Point to the water, then find a similar separation on the poster.
3. Explain that your drawing is a simple model; use the poster, not the drawing, to find the named continents.

What this can show: Can the child locate two named continents and indicate the water between Africa and South America? Stay together and use the picture or an indoor drawing. No trip, purchase, cutting, water access or real address is needed.

Return to it: Find Europe again. Is it separated from Asia by an ocean? Show how you know.

Our Seven Continents · In the classroom

A 20-minute classroom lesson

Prepare: Read the picture and answer cues. Have the optional explorer's notebook available. Paper and a pencil or crayon, or use pointing and spoken descriptions.

Words to explore

continent — One of the large land regions of Earth.

seven continents — The seven names used in this collection are North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and Antarctica.

3 min · Notice: Look together: Find a familiar land shape with Olivia, then read its name. Let your child choose a second continent to locate.

4 min · Compare: Discuss: read one question and invite children to point to the evidence.

8 min · Try together: Draw two large land shapes with water between them. Point to the water, then find a similar separation on the poster. Explain that your drawing is a simple model; use the poster, not the drawing, to find the named continents.

5 min · Explain: Try and explain: Draw two large land shapes with water between them. Point to the water, then find a similar separation on the poster. Explain that your drawing is a simple model; use the poster, not the drawing, to find the named continents.

Understanding check: Can the child locate two named continents and indicate the water between Africa and South America?

Answer guidance: Ocean water separates them. It is the Atlantic Ocean; naming it is an optional extension because the poster does not label oceans. Europe and Asia touch. Their different names do not mean an ocean separates them. Help your child follow the boundary between them. Antarctica. It surrounds the South Pole. Pointing is enough before remembering the name.

Read labels aloud and describe shape and position. Accept speech, signing, pointing or eye gaze; do not rely only on color.

A response to keep

Use notebook page 2 to invent two land shapes with water between them. Keep your drawing separate from the real world map.

One clue I can explain now...

Something else I wonder...

<https://kiddos.ai/learn/olivia-the-globetrotter/seven-continents>

Related story: Olivia and Doudou in Paris — Olivia and Doudou in Paris is set in Europe; Olivia and Doudou in San Francisco is set in North America. These real book destinations offer two starting points for a wider map.

Our discovery record

Use words, marks, a drawing or an adult's notes. Keep this page with you; nothing needs to be uploaded.

Date / time (if useful): _____

My question or idea

What I noticed

What I think now

What I want to explore next

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